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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations—West (RAMP UP West)

OVERVIEW

USAID's RAMP UP West project assists municipalities to create effective, responsive, democratic, transparent and accountable governance in four western provinces. Geographic focus includes the main provincial municipalities of Herat (Herat), Qala-e-Naw (Badghis), Farah (Farah), and Chaghcharan (Ghor).

RAMP UP West helps municipalities to deliver improved and demand-driven services based on priorities established by its citizens. It also seeks to increase the trust and confidence of the community in the municipal government to deliver services fairly and efficiently. The overarching goals of the project are to:

- Increase the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) municipal officials
- Markedly improve the delivery of municipal services to citizens in target municipalities
- Increase municipal capacity to enable, support and sustain economic growth

As a result, Afghan citizens will receive better services, understand the responsibilities of their municipal leaders, play an active role in municipal decision-making and see local governance structures as legitimate and responsive.

RAMP UP West supports municipalities through technical assistance, training, and on-the-job mentoring; embedded technical advisors form the majority of the hands-on work provided by RAMP UP West. These advisors work in partnership with municipal staff to design specific activities tailored to each municipality. RAMP UP West also procures goods and services from local firms and hires locally to the maximum extent possible. The project wants to play a positive role in each municipality for all citizens.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- **Build Capacity of GIROA officials at the municipal level:** Contribute to enhancing the capacity of municipal officials, managers, and technicians to perform their core municipal management responsibilities in meeting the needs of citizens.
- **Support GIROA to provide responsive, effective, and visible municipal service delivery programs:** Facilitate municipalities in delivering visible, tangible, and desirable services based on the participation of citizens in the identification of needs and priorities, which includes expeditious service delivery projects and longer-term services that provide citizens with improvements in life.
- **Support GIROA to improve economic development and revenue generation at the Municipal level:** Foster local economic development and strengthen revenue generation, thereby improving the ability of municipalities to finance its public services to citizens and associated operating costs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

In its first year of operations (April 2011 – March 2012), RAMP UP West expects to:

- Increase citizen satisfaction with municipal government by 20 percent in areas of operation
- Enable municipalities to maintain functioning performance budgeting and accounting systems
- Create 50,000 person days of labor for local communities
- Rehabilitate and construct key infrastructure projects in four municipalities
- Provide anti-corruption training to a minimum of 20 municipal government staff members